

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 SY-05 USSS-00 CIAE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 MCT-01 CPR-01 SS-15 NSC-05 L-03 /061 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:WNHOWELL/IO/UNP:JPLORENZ:DWL
APPROVED BY NEA/NAVELIOTES
NEA/ARN:MDRAPER
IO/UNP:GBHELMAN
A/SY:STMARS

-----055327 091905Z /47

P 091826Z AUG 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 187529

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEC, PDIP, PORG, SY, US

SUBJECT: SECURITY OF SYRIAN UN MISSION

REF: A) USUN 2188; B) DAMASCUS 3968; C) DAMASCUS 5033

1. ADDRESSEES SHOULD INFORM APPROPRIATE SYRIAN OFFICIALS IN DAMASCUS AND NEW YORK THAT, IN RESPONSE TO THEIR REPRESENTATIONS REGARDING INCREASED SECURITY PROTECTION FOR THE SYRIAN UN MISSION, THE DEPARTMENT HAS FULLY REVIEWED THE SITUATION AS WELL AS THE DECISION PREVIOUSLY COMMUNICATED TO THE SYRIAN AUTHORITIES TO TERMINATE EXTRAORDINARY SECURITY COVERAGE BY PERSONNEL OF THE EXECUTIVE PROTECTION
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SERVICE (EPS) EFFECTIVE COB MAY 31, 1977. IT HAS BEEN DECIDED THAT THE DECISION SHOULD STAND. YOU SHOULD INFORM SYRIANS THAT USG TAKES SERIOUSLY ITS OBLIGATION TO PROTECT SYRIAN MISSION AND PERSONNEL IN NEW YORK AND KEEPS QUESTION OF THEIR SECURITY UNDER CONTINUAL REVIEW. SHOULD DEVELOPMENTS IN NEW YORK OR ELSEWHERE WARRANT REINSTITUTION OF TEMPORARY AND EXTRAORDINARY PROTECTION, USG WILL ADDRESS

THE ISSUE AT THAT TIME. SYRIAN AUTHORITIES IN NEW YORK OR DAMASCUS SHOULD OF COURSE IMMEDIATELY INFORM USG OF ANY THREAT OR UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH WOULD REQUIRE EXTRA-ORDINARY PROTECTION OF THEIR UN MISSION OR PERSONNEL.

2. IN CONVEYING THIS RESPONSE, ADDRESSEES SHOULD EMPHASIZE ONCE AGAIN TO SYRIAN AUTHORITIES THAT DECISION TO EMPLOY EPS ON TEMPORARY BASIS OUTSIDE WASHINGTON AND ON BEHALF OF CERTAIN SELECT UN MISSIONS WAS TAKEN ON EXTRAORDINARY BASIS AND FOR TEMPORARY PERIOD AND WAS BASED UPON OUR APPRECIATION OF SECURITY SITUATION AT THAT TIME. SIMILARLY, USG HAS NOW DETERMINED, BASED UPON OUR PRESENT ASSESSMENT OF THAT SITUATION, THAT EPS COVERAGE NO LONGER REQUIRED AT THIS TIME.

3. SYRIANS SHOULD ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT SYRIAN UN MISSION WAS NOT RPT NOT SINGLED OUT IN OUR DECISION. PRIOR TO JUNE 1, EPS PERSONNEL WERE DEPLOYED IN PROTECTION OF SEVERAL UN MISSIONS LOCATED ON UPPER FLOORS OF HIGH-RISE BUILDINGS, WHERE NEW YORK CITY POLICE DO NOT PATROL. SPECIAL EPS COVERAGE WAS ALSO WITHDRAWN FROM THESE MISSIONS (ISRAEL, JORDAN, LEBANON, THE ARAB LEAGUE AND THE PLO) AS OF COB 31 MAY.

4. FINALLY, YOU SHOULD INFORM SYRIANS THAT STATE DEPARTMENT SECURITY OFFICE AND NYPD EXPERTS WOULD BE CONFIDENTIAL

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PLEASED TO OFFER TECHNICAL ADVICE ON WAYS OF ASSURING MAXIMUM PROTECTION OF THEIR OFFICE AND FASTEST REACTION TIME OF NEW YORK POLICE.

5. FOR USUN: IN ADDITION TO CONVEYING ABOVE TO SYRIAN MISSION, YOU SHOULD OFFER TO ASSIST JORDANIAN MISSION AND ARAB LEAGUE AND PLO UN OFFICES ALONG THE LINES OF PARAGRAPH

4. WE UNDERSTAND ISRAELIS HAVE ALREADY BEEN APPROACHED, AND THAT THEIR MISSION'S SECURITY IS HIGHLY SOPHISTICATED AND EFFECTIVE. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SECURITY, PEACE OBSERVATION MISSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 09-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE187529
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: WNHOWELL/IO/UNP:JPLORENZ:DWL
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770286-0686
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770880/aaaacpwu.tel
Line Count: 104
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 776e635f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 USUN NEW YORK 2188, 77 DAMASCUS 3968, 77 DAMASCUS 5033
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1659659
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SECURITY OF SYRIAN UN MISSION
TAGS: ASEC, PDIP, PORG, SY, US
To: DAMASCUS USUN NEW YORK
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/776e635f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009